

PROTECT THE PUBLIC AIRWAVES/PREVENT GREATER MEDIA MONOPOLY

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should AT MINIMUM retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

ADDITIONALLY THE FCC SHOULD RESTORE THE FAIRNESS DOCTRINE! IT IS PATENTLY ABSURD TO SUGGEST THAT NEW TECHNOLOGIES PROVIDE SUFFICIENT COMPETITION TO ELIMINATE THE MINIMAL REGULATIONS CURRENTLY IN PLACE.

To suggest that the Internet, Satellite, wireless etc. enable dissenting voices to be heard with adequate breadth and depth in the United States, simply shows that the FCC is captive to the 0 million dollars spent by lobbyists to change the rules to maximize the financial interest of the corporations they represent! RESTORE THE FUNCTION OF THE FCC TO SERVE THE PUBLIC INTEREST, NOT CORPORATE INTEREST. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE!

TAKE REAL CLOSE LOOK AT THE QUESTIONS NOW BEING RAISED WITHIN THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ABOUT THE POLITICIZING OF INFORMATION AND THE COMPLICITY OF THE MEDIA IN FAILING TO PRESENT A BALANCED POINT OF VIEW. WHAT IS THE COST TO OUR COUNTRY AND THE WORLD?

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

In addition to the official hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA, I strongly urge the FCC to hold additional hearings elsewhere around the nation to solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you,

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